

**Embassy of the United States
New Delhi, India**

American Embassy Newsletter for American Citizens – Volume 6: June, 2007

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1. Disclosure of Foreign Accounts.

Taxpayers may note that, on Form 1040 Schedule B, taxpayers must disclose to the U.S. Department of the Treasury any bank and financial accounts that they maintain outside of the United States, unless the aggregate value of the accounts is less than \$10,000 (approximately Rs. 4 lakh). The requirement to disclose such accounts exists, even if the taxpayer is otherwise exempt from filing an income tax return. The form used to report such overseas accounts is not a tax form--no payments are required. Rather, the form is for disclosure purposes only.

The form to be filed is Treasury Department Form TD F 90-22.1, and should NOT be mailed with your U.S. income tax return. Rather, the form should be filed directly with the Department of Treasury at the address indicated on the form. The due date for filing the form for calendar year 2006 is June 30, 2007.

The form and instructions are available at www.irs.gov. Click on "Forms and Publications." The address to which the form should be sent is a post office box address. However, courier services such as FedEx and DHL will not deliver to a post office box. Accordingly, if you are sending the form via courier service, you must send the form to an actual street address, as follows:

U.S. Department of the Treasury
Attention: P.O. Box 32621
985 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226
Tel. (313) 234-1900 (for listing with courier service, only)

2. Independence Day Party at U.S. Embassy.

All American citizens living in or visiting India are invited to attend the Independence Day celebration at the U.S. Embassy!

Date: Saturday, 7 July 2007

Time: 6:00 p.m. - midnight (no admittance after 9:00 p.m.)

Place: ACSA Ballfield (entrance at Gate E, the "ACSA Gate," on Panchsheel Marg across from New Sikkim House, in the Chanakya Puri neighborhood, New Delhi)

Price: Rs. 150 per person (children under 5 admitted for free)

Gates will open at 5:30 p.m. A formal presentation, including welcoming remarks from Ambassador David C. Mulford, will take place from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Entry to the ACSA ballfield will be restricted during this presentation, so please arrive early! There will be carnival games, fireworks, special commemorative T-shirts for sale, and more! Those attending will be able to purchase coupons for food and drinks.

Admission Guidelines: This party is open ONLY to American citizens and their immediate family members. An "immediate" family member means (i) for American citizen adults, your spouse and children, or (ii) for American citizen minors, your parents and brothers & sisters. Unfortunately, extended family members such as cousins, aunts & uncles, grandparents, etc. who are not American citizens are not permitted to attend this party. Every person attending must bring his/her passport.

Tickets & RSVP Instructions: You can also buy tickets at the door, but ONLY if you R.S.V.P. in advance by sending the following information for each member of your family group via e-mail to acsnd@state.gov no later than Tuesday, July 3:

- * Name
- * Nationality
- * Passport number
- * If you are not an American citizen, your relationship to the American in your group

If you wish to buy tickets in advance, you can do so at the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy's Consular Section (enter at Gate 6 on Nyaya Marg, hours 10 -12 and 2 - 3:30) or at the ACSA gift shop (ACSA members only please).

Questions? Ask Betsy, Sherry or Mukesh by calling 2419-8316, or by writing to acsnd@state.gov.

3. Farmhouse Parties

The American Embassy School recently sent a letter to parents expressing concern about the danger of young people attending "farmhouse parties." The Embassy's Regional Security Office strongly endorses the concerns expressed by the American Embassy School about such parties. Indian law enforcement authorities have recently commented about the increased use of dangerous drugs at such parties in Delhi. The consumption of alcohol by minors (defined under Indian law as under 25 years of age) has also been identified as a problem. It should be noted that over 200 young people were arrested recently at a farmhouse party near Mumbai for illegal narcotics and liquor violations.

The Embassy's Regional Security Office recommends the following:

- Ensure that children are aware of local laws and the impact of breaking those laws could have on the family.
- Have all transportation requirements identified before the party begins.
- Preference should be given to chaperoned parties hosted by parents familiar to you.
- Establish a reliable communications link between children and home.

4. Domestic Passport Crush.

The United States recently began requiring air travelers to and from the United States to travel using a U.S. passport. This is nothing new for persons traveling to the United States from India,

but air travelers to the U.S. from Canada, Mexico and several Caribbean nations previously were able enter the country with other proof of citizenship and identification (such as a birth certificate and driver's license). This new initiative has caused explosive growth in demand for U.S. passports.

Because of this increase in demand, a regular passport renewal in the United States, which used to take only a few weeks, now takes 10 - 14 weeks. "Expedited" service is available for an extra fee, but only lowering the wait time to 3 - 6 weeks.

Americans living in India need not worry, however! Fortunately, the domestic crush of passport applications has not affected the time by which overseas applicants receive their passports. If you apply for a passport at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, the passport is generally ready in around a week. The irony is that our passports are made at the same factory in New Hampshire where many passports are made for domestic applicants. Rest assured that you are receiving "super expedited" service from the Embassy, without any additional fees!

Information on how to renew or replace a U.S. passport is available on our website: <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov>. Click on "U.S. Citizen Services" and then on "Passports and Citizenship."

5. Redesign of State Department Travel Website.

The primary site for worldwide travel information provided by the U.S. Department of State is located at <http://travel.state.gov>. This site was recently completely redesigned, to make it more user friendly. You can find travel advice on every country in the world on the site. You can also find out what countries require American citizens to apply for a visa before visiting. There are also passport forms available for download. These are just a few examples of the information available on the site, so please give it a visit!

6. Pandemic Influenza Preparedness.

Some readers to this newsletter are likely tired of hearing about preparedness for a possible global pandemic of avian influenza or some other strain of influenza. However, do not become complacent about this very real threat! As one expert put it, it is more likely that there will be a serious global pandemic than the chance that your house will burn down. However, you certainly maintain fire insurance for your house. Why not take some steps now to prepare you and your family for a possible influenza pandemic?

If a serious global pandemic occurs, international borders may close and air travel may cease. Medical facilities could be quickly overwhelmed, leaving you and your family to care for yourselves. Our website contains useful information in the form of Questions & Answers on steps you can take, including stockpiling of food and water (which is common sense preparation for any kind of emergency). You should also read carefully information the availability of medication in India such as Tamiflu, and restrictions on the Embassy's ability to share its stocks of such medication with American citizens living in India.

Please review our Embassy website from time to time to keep abreast of any changes in our advice. See <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/acsinfluenza.html>.

7. Goodbye from Consular Staff.

This summer, we say goodbye to Deputy Consul General Richard Sherman. Rich is the longest-serving American in the Consular Section, having arrived in India in 2003. Rich will be taking up

a new position at the Department of State's headquarters, and so he and his family will be relocating to the Washington DC area. Rich's successor will be Cynthia Sharpe, who is currently the Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Nogales, Mexico.

We also say goodbye to American Citizen Services Chief Patrick McNeil, who arrived in India in 2004. Patrick is taking a position as chief of the Consular Section at the U.S. Embassy in Tallinn, Estonia. Patrick's successor will be Lynn Lewis, who is currently serving at the Department of State in Washington.

8. ACS Location & Hours and Upcoming Holidays.

Our hours: The American Citizen Services Unit is open to the public from Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. We are available outside of these hours for emergency services. To contact us, call (011) 2419-8000, ext. 4249 or 8562 or 4040 or 4032. You can also e-mail us at acsnd@state.gov.

Upcoming Indian and American holidays on which the Embassy will be closed are July 4 (Independence Day), August 15 (Indian Independence Day), August 28 (Raksha Bandhan), September 3 (Labor Day) and September 4 (Janmashtami). The Embassy is always available for emergency services for American citizens.

If you believe you may have missed a recent "warden message" sent to American citizens in India, all recent warden messages issued by the Embassy are available on the Embassy website at http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/warden_information.html. Past issues of this newsletter are available at <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/acsnewsletter.html>
